

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 13, 22-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hedrick et al. (US 6,368,216 B1) in view of Tarantino (US 6,656,047 B1).

Regarding the analogous art; Hedrick discloses a system of linked gaming machines connected to a progressive tournament system; Tarantino discloses a system of linked gaming machines that facilitate connection to a progressive display and machines links for tournament play. Both inventions are related to gaming machine casino networks and tournament play.

Applicant has amended the claims to state that a first game is played on the linked gaming machines, and a second game, a bonusing video game is played on the interactive sign. Applicant has further amended the claims to state that once a certain operation of the linked gaming machines is satisfied, the player enters the LCD screen to play a bonusing video game. Further, the claims have been amended to state that the players compete against each other by playing a video game on the interactive sign.

None of the prior art teaches these elements of the claim. Therefore, all of the claims are allowable over the prior art.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hedrick and Tarantino as applied above and in view of Dote (US 5,221,083).

25. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine system of claim 13 wherein said bonusing ~~event~~ game comprises a wheel which has various monetary denominations.

26. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine system of claim 13 wherein said bonusing ~~event~~ game is a display of a game on an LCD screen wherein a player plays one on one with a casino dealer on said LCD screen.

27. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine system of claim 13 wherein said bonusing ~~event~~ game comprises a ferris wheel that unloads coins when one of said linked gaming machines triggers said bonusing ~~event~~ game.

28. Cancelled

29. (New) The gaming machine system of Claim 13 wherein players playing at least two gaming machines linked together enter said bonusing game during same play of said first game.

For the reasons stated above, Claim 26 is allowable over the prior art.

Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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